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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,251	10/31/2003	Takanobu Adachi	SHO-0025	9042

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EXAMINER

FRISBY, KESHA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3715

DATE MAILED: 05/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/697,251	Applicant(s) ADACHI ET AL.	
	Examiner Kesha Frisby	Art Unit 3715	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

After the amendment filed 2/22/2006, claims 1-12 are pending. Claims 1-6 have been amended and claims 7-12 have been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. **Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loose et al. (U.S. Publication Number 2003/0087690) in view of Fey (Slot Machines: A Pictorial History of the First 100 Years).** Referring to claims 1 & 7, Loose et al. discloses a gaming machine (10) comprising: game start instruction means for instructing a start of a game (paragraph 0018: "Spin Reels" key on the button panel 24); determination means for determining symbols to be stopped (paragraph 0018: central processing unit) and whether or not a combination is won based on the symbols determined corresponding to a game start instruction command from the game start instruction means (paragraphs 0018 & 0019); means for displaying a result concerning with the game determined by the determination means (paragraphs 0012 & 0026); and means for generating a beneficial state for a player when a specific game result with a winning symbol combination is displayed on the game result display means (paragraph 0026); wherein the game result display means includes first display means (12a-12c)

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and second display means (14a & 14b) arranged at a more front side than a display area of the first display means when seen from a front side of the gaming machine (Figs. 2a & 2b), and the second display means has a symbol display area capable of transmittably displaying the specific game result displayed on the first display means therethrough (paragraph 0019), and wherein display control means (microcontroller 30) is provided, the display control means controlling the second display means (Fig. 11) so as to display game information (pay table) in an area including the symbol display area (paragraph 0019). *Loose et al. does not disclose displaying the game information predicting the winning symbol combination before the specific game result is displayed on the first display means.* However, Fey teaches displaying the game information ("future pay" window that shows the number of coins to be paid out on the following play) predicting the winning symbol combination before the specific game result is displayed on the first display means (the examiner views this limitation as since the number of coins paid are known then the number of coins relate to the pay table which corresponds to a winning combination) (see pages 101-103 & 161). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary in the art at the time the invention was made to include displaying the game information predicting the winning symbol combination before the specific game result is displayed on the first display means, as disclosed by Fey, incorporated into Loose et al. in order to inform the player of the number of tokens he is to receive on the following play.

Referring to claims 2 & 8, Loose et al., as modified by Fey, discloses wherein the first display means has one or more symbol display parts (symbols on reels) capable of

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variable displaying (visual association with display area 16), and wherein the display control means controls the second display means so as to display the game information in the area including the symbol display area substantially at the same time that the variable displaying in the symbol display parts is stopped and displayed (paragraphs 0012 & 0019).

Referring to claims 3 & 9, Loose et al., as modified by Fey, discloses wherein light transmittance rate of the symbol display area is changed (paragraph 0025).

Referring to claims 4 & 10, Loose et al., as modified by Fey, discloses wherein light transmittance rate of the symbol display area is changed (paragraph 0025).

Referring to claims 5 & 11, Loose et al., as modified by Fey, discloses wherein a window frame display area is formed at a periphery of the symbol display area (where the glass cover/window is inserted around the display area 16 for non-movement), and wherein display mode of the window frame display area is changed when the game information is displayed in the area including the symbol display area (for example: going from Fig. 5 to Fig. 6 to Fig. 7).

Referring to claims 6 & 12, Loose et al., as modified by Fey, discloses wherein the first display means includes a plurality of reels (12a-c), and the display control means controls the second display means so as to display the game information before all of the reels are stopped ("future play" window shows the number of coins to be paid out on the following play of Fey).

3. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada (U.S. Patent Number 5,152,529) in view of Fey (Slot Machines: A Pictorial

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History of the First 100 Years). Referring to claims 1 & 7, Okada discloses a gaming machine (slot machine 1) comprising: game start instruction means for instructing a start of a game (column 2 lines 65-67); determination means for determining symbols to be stopped and whether or not a combination is won based on the symbols determined corresponding a game start instruction command from the game start instruction means; means for displaying a result concerning with the game determined by the determination means (column 2 lines 45-47); and means for generating a beneficial state for a player when a specific game result with a winning symbol combination is displayed on the game result display means (column 3 lines 2-5); wherein the game result display means includes first display means (inner reel 17) and second display means (outer reel 6) arranged at a more front side than a display area of the first display means when seen from a front side of the gaming machine (Figs. 1, 2 & 3), and the second display means has a symbol display area capable of transmittably displaying the specific game result displayed on the first display means therethrough (column 3 lines 2-5 & Figs. 2 & 3), and wherein display control means (controller 45) is provided, the display control means controlling the second display means (Fig. 4) so as to display game information (winning combination) in an area including the symbol display area (Fig. 1). *Okada does not disclose displaying the game information predicting the winning symbol combination before the specific game result is displayed on the first display means.* However, Fey teaches displaying the game information ("future pay" window that shows the number of coins to be paid out on the following play) predicting the winning symbol combination before the specific game result is displayed on the first

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display means (the examiner views this limitation as since the number of coins paid are known then the number of coins relate to the pay table which corresponds to a winning combination) (see pages 101-103 & 161). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary in the art at the time the invention was made to include displaying the game information predicting the winning symbol combination before the specific game result is displayed on the first display means, as disclosed by Fey, incorporated into Okada in order to inform the player of the number of tokens he is to receive on the following play. Referring to claims 2 & 8, Okada, as modified by Fey, discloses wherein the first display means has one or more symbol display parts (symbols on reels) capable of variable displaying (display windows 3 to 5), and wherein the display control means controls the second display means so as to display the game information in the area including the symbol display area substantially at the same time that the variable displaying in the symbol display parts is stopped and displayed (column 3 lines 45-48).

Referring to claims 3 & 9, Okada, as modified by Fey, discloses wherein light transmittance rate of the symbol display area is changed (light-shielding lug 21 & 22 / Fig. 7).

Referring to claims 4 & 10, Okada, as modified by Fey, discloses wherein light transmittance rate of the symbol display area is changed (light-shielding lug 21 & 22 / Fig. 7).

Referring to claims 5 & 11, Okada, as modified by Fey, discloses wherein a window frame display area is formed at a periphery of the symbol display area (where the glass cover/window is inserted around the display windows 3 to 5 for non-movement), and

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wherein display mode of the window frame display area is changed when the game information is displayed in the area including the symbol display area (for example: the symbols change as the payer goes from the regular game to the additional game).

Referring to claims 6 & 12, Okada, as modified by Fey, discloses wherein the first display means including a plurality of reels (inner reel 17), and the display control means controls the second display means so as to display the game information before all of the reels are stopped ("future play" window shows the number of coins to be paid out on the following play of Fey).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments, see Abstract, filed 2/22/2006, with respect to the Abstract have been fully considered and are persuasive. The objection of the Abstract has been withdrawn.

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The applicant recites passages from the Specification stating the differences between the references used and the applicant's invention. However, these differences do not tie themselves to what the applicant has claimed as their invention. Therefore the examiner has kept the previous rejections while addressing the limitations that have been added due to the amendment filed 2/22/2006.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

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§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kesha Frisby whose telephone number is 571-272-8774. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Wed. 7-3pm, Thu. 6:30-4pm & Fri. 7-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on 571-272-6678. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Robert P. Olszewski 5/8/06

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